



"I can't breathe." These were the last words of George Floyd, who senselessly and cruelly died while being restrained by Minneapolis police officers on May 25, 2020. We, the members of the Eau Claire City Council, denounce the murder of George Floyd. We denounce all abuses of power and all forms of brutality, racism, hatred, and bigotry. They have no place in our society.

Many of us do not know the full pain and cannot truly understand the historical trauma that Black, Indigenous and People of Color have experienced through racism. Yet we know the disadvantages that these societal structures create in every community and how these structural deficits impede the ability to live a full life. Public health officials remind us that "racism causes persistent racial discrimination in housing, education, employment and criminal justice, and an emerging body of research demonstrates that racism is a social determinant of health" (UW-Madison, Population Health Institute, "Racism is a Public Health Crisis in Wisconsin", 2017). This is the health of us as individuals and as a community. No one's life should be shortened or altered due to the color of their skin and George Floyd's life should not have been shut off at 46 years old. Mr. Floyd should have had a long life with his family, friends, and most importantly, his daughter, Giana Floyd.

As one of the Floyd family attorneys shared, "George Floyd is not just a name, not just a meme, and not just something to be chanted. George Floyd was a real person, and he had people that loved him." George Floyd's young child has to grow up without her good and loving dad. Young Giana spoke in a now viral video, "Daddy changed the world."

George's death is birthing change in us. We commit to doing our part to stand up to abuses of power, create conditions for all people to thrive and proactively address disparities in health, social, and economic prosperity. We ask all of you to be supportive and welcoming of these conditions and more importantly, of each other.

May Mr. Floyd rest in peace, and may his friends and family know that we stand with them in seeking justice for George, and for creating a more just world for all.

Sincerely,

*Terry Weld*  
Council President  
At-Large Representative

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